

SENATE BILL 128

F1
SB 340/09 – EHE & FIN

0lr1460

By: **Senators Pugh, Jones, Lenett, Madaleno, and Muse**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2010

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – High School Diploma – GED Options Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to establish a GED
4 Options Program that provides certain students with an alternative course for
5 obtaining a high school diploma beginning on a certain date; providing for
6 certain Program requirements; requiring students enrolled in a certain program
7 to be counted in the average daily attendance of a certain school system;
8 requiring the State Board to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to
9 the GED Options Program for obtaining a high school diploma.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Education

12 Section 7–206

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

16 Article – Education

17 Section 7–301(a)

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Education**

23 **7–206.**

24 **(A) BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2010, THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH**
25 **A GED OPTIONS PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES STUDENTS AT RISK OF DROPPING**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL WITH AN ALTERNATIVE COURSE FOR OBTAINING A HIGH
2 SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

3 (B) THE PROGRAM REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS
4 SECTION SHALL:

5 (1) INCLUDE ONLY STUDENTS WHO ARE BETWEEN 16 AND 18
6 YEARS OF AGE WHO ARE DETERMINED TO BE AT HIGH RISK OF DROPPING OUT
7 OF HIGH SCHOOL;

8 (2) REQUIRE MANDATORY ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE IN A
9 GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PREPARATORY PROGRAM FOR AT
10 LEAST 15 HOURS EACH WEEK IN A PLACE AND MANNER APPROVED BY THE
11 APPROPRIATE SCHOOL AUTHORITY;

12 (3) PROVIDE TRAINING IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SKILLS;
13 AND

14 (4) DETERMINE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO BE IN COMPLIANCE
15 WITH THE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS UNDER § 7-301 OF THIS
16 TITLE.

17 (C) STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE GED OPTIONS PROGRAM UNDER
18 THIS SECTION SHALL BE COUNTED IN THE AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE OF
19 THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.

20 (D) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT
21 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

22 7-301.

23 (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each child who
24 resides in this State and is 5 years old or older and under 16 shall attend a public
25 school regularly during the entire school year unless the child is otherwise receiving
26 regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in
27 the public schools to children of the same age.

28 (2) In accordance with regulations of the State Board of Education, a
29 child who resides in this State and is 5 years old may be exempted from mandatory
30 school attendance for 1 year if the child's parent or guardian files a written request
31 with the local school system asking that the child's attendance be delayed due to the
32 child's level of maturity.

33 (3) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section or in regulations
34 of the State Board of Education, each child who resides in this State shall attend a

1 kindergarten program regularly during the school year prior to entering the first
2 grade unless the child is otherwise receiving regular, thorough instruction in the skills
3 and studies usually taught in a kindergarten program of a public school.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 July 1, 2010.